



WOMEN AND POVERTY FAST FACTS

Women regardless of race, ethnicity, language, marital status, or country of origin carry a disproportionate burden of poverty, limited wealth, and assets.

Over 70% of the world's 900 million poor are women.

The gap in the poverty rates between men and women in the United States is greater than in other countries.

Single women mothers are most likely to be in poverty and have fewer assets. Assets refers to financial and economic resources, not including human capital

In 2009 nearly half of all female headed households in the United States were in poverty.

More female headed households, especially African American females do not have bank accounts according to the National Center for Children in Poverty.

African American, Native American and Latino American women rank at the bottom of almost all studies and reports on income, assets, and wealth.

According to a 2008 study, women in poverty are susceptible to problem drinking and other psychological issues as a result of their constant exposure to severe, chronic stressors within their communities and immediate social networks.

Women tend to get paid less for the same type of jobs as do men. More women are employed in jobs that traditionally pay less such as child care, food preparation, cleaning, sales, and administrative support.

Histories of substance abuse, compounded by poverty, unemployment, as well domestic violence often are associated with women who have been incarcerated in California prisons.

According to an April 2011 report issued by the California Dept. of Public Health, Medi-Cal was the payer source for 45% of women who gave birth in California in 2002-2003, and also was the payer for 57% of the pregnancy-related deaths.

FEMALE POPULATION ON MEDI-CAL - JULY 2009 (CDSS report dated July 2010)

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| CALAVERAS- 3,433 | FRESNO- 164,696 |
| KERN-125,634 | KINGS -19,081 |
| MADERA-22,393 | MARIPOSA – 1,445 |
| MERCED – 43,373 | SAN JOAQUIN- 91,050 |
| SAN LUIS OBISPO- 17,394 | SANTA BARBARA- 42,121 |
| STANISLAUS- 70,621 | TULARE - 87,060 |

In 2009 in the United States, there were twice as many older women in poverty than older men in poverty. Social Security lifted 8.5 million women out of poverty in 2009. Yet, women receive fewer Social Security benefits as a result of their lower lifetime wages.

| COUNTY | TOTAL POPULATION | FEMALE | 65 YEARS AND OVER | FEMALE 65 YEARS AND OVER |
|-----------------|------------------|--------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| CALAVERAS | 46,548 | 50.1% | 8,852 | 52.3% |
| FRESNO | 915,267 | 49.5% | 86,434 | 57.2% |
| KERN | 807,407 | 48.2% | 69,518 | 48% |
| KINGS | 148,764 | 42.6% | 10,913 | 55.9% |
| MADERA | 148,632 | 51.9% | 14, 976 | 54.3% |
| MARIPOSA | 17,792 | 49% | 3,314 | 50.8% |
| MERCED | 245,321 | 49.7% | 22,752 | 56.5% |
| SAN JOAQUIN | 674,860 | 49.8% | 65,737 | 57.4% |
| SAN LUIS OBISPO | 266,971 | 48.7% | 37,925 | 56.6% |
| SANTA BARBARA | 407,057 | 49.4% | 52,042 | 57.1% |
| STANISLAUS | 510,385 | 50.4% | 51,551 | 57.5% |
| TULARE | 429,668 | 49.6% | 38,941 | 56.3% |

In Fresno, the Holy Cross Center provides clothing, food, shower and laundry facilities as well as educational and medical and dental services for up to 900 women each month. Most of these women are living in poverty.

The Bakersfield Homeless Shelter in 2007 reported that 66% of those needing shelter were women.

In January 2011 there were 1,457,657 California participants of the WIC (Women, Infant, and Children) program. In November 2009 there were 16, 272 WIC participants in Mariposa County; 18, 287 participants in Santa Barbara County and 20, 862 participants in Stanislaus County.

A 2010 San Luis Obispo Women’s Legacy Fund report on Women and Girls found that of those senior women who responded to the survey, financial security and ability to meet basic needs was their most pressing issue.